

Group piano classes!



Hello- I am Catherine, mum of two children at Aldrynton. I have been teaching piano for over 20 years now, in a variety of settings both inside schools and most recently, my own piano school. I have taught over 300 people including adults, from all walks of life and all with different goals that they want to achieve.

My ethos has refined itself in recent years to elucidate that which I feel most passionate about; Music should be a source of joy, fun and contribution. A way for people to express themselves, and to share their musical 'note' with others. That is why we learn music, and yet it is easy to lose sight of that sometimes when the joy of music is lost. This is why I teach in the way that I do, to really find the musical expression in each person, and alongside that tackle technique and learning the language of music. The two must go in tandem because otherwise the learning of music simply loses its purpose.

In my classes I hope for any worries or troubles to be temporarily put to one side. I hope to provide a space for our young people to be seen and heard and related to closely, while developing their innate musicianship.

It is my belief that music can play a part in any child or adult's life regardless of natural ability.

I want to help each person to find that role that music can have in their life.

I want children to find their own way and discover music for themselves, within themselves.

Small group lessons are now my recommendation for young beginners. Small groups are a wonderful way for children to learn music, especially for the piano as it is often a rather solitary instrument. Children enjoy learning alongside their peers, making music together and bouncing off each other in a lively and upbeat lesson. I am a licensee of 'Keynotes' which is specially created group class material which means that children can progress at their own speed with differentiated levels.

Many children feel more comfortable in a group of similar aged children especially if they are a little shy or not used to the intensity of a one to one lesson.

Another advantage to group playing is that it teaches, from the outset, the importance of playing in time, and being accurate with rhythm. Being able to play in time is probably the most essential skill of a musician.

I have also noticed that students are more incentivised to practice when they are in a group as they instinctively feel part of a team and more inclined to play their part within that. It also creates the possibility for group improvisation and creative projects that are more inspiring to work on together. Within a group, students are able to be praised and evaluated by their peers for their contribution to the team, leading to feelings of self-esteem and self-worth.

Groups also provide a great way to approach grade exams, which can sometimes feel ominous for young learners. We tackle the material together in a progressive manner and make it fun!

At school I offer beginner level group classes at 3.15 on a Monday. There is no need to collect your child beforehand as I will gather the children for the class.

Please contact me on:

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